GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3450
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2000
AFFECT OF CANCER ON CHILDREN
RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether about two lakhs children are affected by cancer every year in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the preventive steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA)

(a)&(b): No reliable nation wide data on occurrence of paediatric cancer is available.
The major paediatric cancers includes leukemias, Wilm`s tumors, retinoblastoma, brain cancer, lymphomas etc. The exact etiology of these cancers is not known. However, family history is important in retinoblastoma and leukemia. Down`s syndrome and other chromosomal abnormalities, exposure to radiation are also important etiological factors for development of leukemias. AIDS and some other immuno-deficiency states have been found to increase the risk of Hodgkins lymphoma. Epsterin-Barr virus infection is considered to be a risk factor for development of Hodgkin`s disease.

(c): In order to combat this problem, the Government of India has launched the following schemes under national Cancer Control Programme for early detection, creating awareness and treatment of cancer:-

1. Upgradation of Regional Cancer Centres in various States/UTs.

2. Development of Oncology Wing in identified Medical Colleges/Hospitals.

3. Setting up of Cobalt Therapy facilities in various parts of the country.

4. District Cancer Control Programme.

5. Financial assistance to NGOs for early detection and awareness activities.